

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### Legislature Votes 10-year, \$2.3-billion Transportation Package



State Reps. Cathy C. Tymniak, R-133, Fairfield, Westport, and Jack Stone, R-134, Fairfield, Trumbull, hailed passage of a 10-year, \$2.3-billion transportation package that will improve both highways and rail operations.

The state House of Representatives approved the legislation, HB 5844, by a vote of 143-4. The measure now goes to the Senate and then to the governor for enactment into law.

The package follows Gov. M. Jodi Rell's \$1.3 transportation initiative last year that included funding for 342 new rail cars on Metro-North's New Haven commuter rail line.

**Rep. Tymniak** said, "I am thrilled that this transportation package has passed the House. It is wonderful that the bill looks to the future, and we are finally as a state addressing so many transportation issues. The fact that this will not require any new gasoline taxes or tolls is a good compromise, especially in light of the increasing cost of fuel."

Rep. Tymniak added, "This package includes improvements to the New Haven Line, its branch lines, Bridgeport harbor and other transportation facilities that benefit travelers throughout the entire state of Connecticut."

**Rep. Stone** said, "I am extremely pleased that we have in a bipartisan way provided for numerous transportation improvement projects, adding to those approved last year. The two years' transportation packages, when combined, should have a very positive impact on traffic flow and rail ridership."

Rep. Stone added, "We have been working on this issue for several years, and I hope these initiatives will help reduce traffic congestion on I-95 and the Merritt Parkway."

The legislators noted that the transportation improvements will generate economic activity and support businesses along the rail lines. She also said that the bill funds projects that have been identified for several years, including those at a transportation summit she attended last year.

Among the provision of the bill are:

- Improvements to New Haven Line rail stations and parking lots
- Upgrading Danbury, New Canaan and Waterbury branch lines taking some burden off New Haven main line stations
- Reviving commuter rail service from New Haven north to Hartford, Bradley Airport and Springfield, Massachusetts
- Improving Bridgeport Harbor for barge service to ease truck traffic on I-95
- Possible improvements to congested sections of I-95 east of Branford
- Increasing service on the Shoreline East railroad from New Haven to New London, connecting with ferry service there.

Rep. Tymniak serves the 133<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District of Fairfield and Westport in the state House of Representatives. Rep. Stone represents the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly District of Fairfield and Trumbull.